



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WSDA plans meetings to discuss National Animal Identification System changes

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has scheduled a series of community meetings around the state to make sure livestock owners are aware of recent changes in the National Animal Identification System.

The National Animal Identification System is an effort to identify where livestock live or co-mingle and track their movement to different locations. The purpose of the system is to manage and respond to animal disease outbreaks, which can have devastating economic, animal health, and human health impacts. The goal of the system is to be able to trace all potentially affected animals within 48 hours of a disease outbreak.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is in charge of the National Animal Identification System, recently announced changes in the timeline for requiring livestock to be registered.

“Animal identification is expected to begin next month or January,” said Chris Spaulding, WSDA’s Animal Identification Program specialist. “We want to update animal owners on what is and isn’t required. These community meetings also are an opportunity for livestock owners to comment on the National Animal Identification System or ask questions.”

The first meeting will be in **Monroe** on Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Monroe Fire Department, 163 Village Court. Another meeting will be held the same day in **Enumclaw** from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Enumclaw Fire Department, 1330 Wells St.

The remainder of the meetings will be:

Bellingham, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 1, Whatcom Co. Fire District #8, 752 Marine Dr.

Moses Lake, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 7, Grant County EMS, 6500 32nd Ave. NE, Suite 911

Yakima, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 7, WSDA Office, 21 N. 1st Ave.

Spokane, 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 8, Spokane EMS, 1121 W. Gardiner, Conference Room C

Clarkston, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Dec. 8, Asotin County Aquatic Center, 1603 Dustin Loop

Pasco, 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 9, Franklin County EMS, 502 E. Boeing St.

Longview, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 12, Cowlitz County P.U.D., 961 12th Ave.

Olympia, 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 13, WSDA, 1111 Washington St. SE, Conference Room 175B

Okanogan, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 14, Okanogan County EMS, 123 5th Ave., Room 200